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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Legislative Counsel  
Washington, D. C. 20505  
Telephone: 351-6121 (Code 143-6121)  
13 October 1978

TO: Ms. Diane LaVoy  
Permanent Select Committee on  
Intelligence

Dear Diane:

Per your request, I am forwarding:

(a) 20 July 1970 memorandum,  
Subject: National Intelligence  
Estimates on the Soviet Role in  
the Middle East, 1965-1970

(b) "Symposium on Analytical  
Methodology" dated June 1974.

Please return them to me after you  
have finished with them.

Sincerely,

Assistant Legislative Counsel

Enclosures

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

20 July 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Estimates on the Soviet Role  
in the Middle East, 1965-1970

1. The heavy Soviet presence in the Middle East and the eastern Mediterranean is nowadays a fact of international life, accepted in a sense even by those powers most anxious to limit or contest it. This thought, among others, is conveyed in the long term (and gloomy) view of a recent National Intelligence Estimate:

"Moscow's assumption of a leading role in the area is a significant and probably durable accomplishment... Even in the event of another Arab-Israeli war and another defeat for major Soviet clients, the Soviets would almost certainly retain some sort of position in the area...and would continue to have a voice in the shaping of postwar configurations. With or without such a war, the political climate of the region is likely to remain generally turbulent. Radical nationalist forces will continue to work against Western interests and in their endeavors will no doubt continue to find Soviet support... In any case, the rivalry between the US and the USSR in the Mediterranean is likely to persist at least so long as the contest between them continues in the world at large."\*

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\* NIE 11-6-70, "Soviet Policies in the Middle East and Mediterranean Area," 5 March 1970, SECRET, Controlled Dissem

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Next 17 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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